

77 Loyalists Settle in British North America

By 1784, about forty thousand people had left the Thirteen Colonies because of the American Revolution. These people called themselves Loyalists.

Many Loyalists came north by sea and settled along the coasts of Nova Scotia and up the Saint John River. Others travelled by land and many of these settled along the St. Lawrence River, the north shore of Lake Ontario, the Niagara Peninsula, and the northwest shore of Lake Erie.

Québec was divided into the two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. This permitted the Loyalists in Upper Canada to live under a system of British law.

Since many Loyalists came from farms in the United States they were knowledgeable pioneers. Although the work was very hard, most carved out prosperous farms from the dense forests of Canada. Those who came in groups were the most successful. They helped each other clear the land and harvest the crops. They built churches and schools and established new communities.

Compare these illustrations. The first one shows a farm in the first year of settlement; the second shows the same farm about ten years later. What pioneering skills are shown?

